

## In Congress, April 3, 1776

### IN CONGRESS, APRIL 3, 1776.

**RESOLVED**, That every Person intending to set forth and fit out a Private Ship or Vessel of War, and applying for a Commission or Letters of Marque and Reprisal for that Purpose, shall produce a Writing, subscribed by him, containing the Name, and Tonnage or Burthen of the Ship or Vessel, the Number of her Guns, with their Weight of Metal, the Name and Place of Residence of the Owner or Owners, the Names of the Commander and other Officers, the Number of the Crew, and the Quantity of Provisions and Warlike Stores; which Writing shall be delivered to the Secretary of Congress, or to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Convention or Council or Committee of Safety of the Colony in which the Ship or Vessel shall be, to be transmitted to the said Secretary, and shall be registered by him. And that the Commander of the Ship or Vessel, before the Commission or Letters of Marque and Reprisal may be granted, shall, together with sufficient Sureties, seal and deliver a Bond, in the Penalty of Five Thousand Dollars, if the Vessel be of One Hundred Tons, or under, or Ten Thousand Dollars, if of greater Burthen, payable to the **PRESIDENT** of the **CONGRESS** in Trust for the Use of the United Colonies, with Condition in the Form following, *to wit*, The Condition of this Obligation is such, That if the abovebounden who is Commander of the called belonging to of in the Colony of mounting Carriage Guns, and navigated by Men, and who hath applied for a Commission or Letters of Marque and Reprisal, to arm, equip and set forth to Sea the said as a Private Ship of War, and to make Captures of British Vessels and Cargoes, shall not exceed or transgress the Powers and Authorities which shall be contained in the said Commission, but shall in all Things observe and conduct himself and govern his Crew by and according to the same, and certain Instructions therewith to be delivered, and such other Instructions as may hereafter be given to him; and shall make Reparation for all Damages sustained by any Misconduct or unwarrantable Proceedings of himself, or the Officers or Crew of the

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said Then this Obligation shall be void, or else remain in Force. *Sealed and Delivered in Presence of Which* Bond shall be lodged with the said Secretary of Congress. ***By Order of Congress, PRESIDENT.***